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Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCA-01 FAA-00 DOTE-00 CAB-02 EB-07
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DRAFTED BY ARA/MEX:J.T.DREYFUSS:MRG
APPROVED BY ARA:H.W.SHLAUDEMAN
SCA:R.T.HENNEMEYER (INFORMED)
----------240717Z 114033 /21
R 232147Z DEC 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MX, CASC, ATRN

SUBJECT: TOURISM SECRETARY ROSSELL'S CALL ON SHLAUDEMAN

1. SECRETARY OF TOURISM ROSSELL, ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR (NOW UNDER SECRETARY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS) DE OLLOQUI CALLED ON SHLAUDEMAN DECEMBER 22 TO INFORM HIM OF MEXICO'S STRONG DESIRE TO INCREASE TOURISM FROM U.S. AND ASSURE HIM OF GOM'S FRIENDLY ATTITUDE TOWARDS U.S. TOURISTS. ROSSELL SAID THAT DURING HIS VISIT TO U.S. HE HAD CONTACTED IMPORTANT MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES AND AIRLINES TO DISCUSS TOURISM.

2. ROSSELL EXPRESSED CONCERN OF GOM OVER "REPORTS" THAT STATE DEPARTMENT WAS WARNING PEOPLE NOT TO VISIT MEXICO BECAUSE OF DANGER THEY WOULD BE ATTACKED BY BANDITS, AND SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED LETTER FROM DEPARTMENT TO AMERICAN AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION (COPY OF WHICH EMBASSY HAS) RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS ABOUT ASSAULTS ON AMERICANS TRAVELING
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HIGHWAY IN SONORA AND SINALOA. WE ASSURED ROSSELL THAT DEPARTMENT WAS NOT REPEAT NOT TELLING PEOPLE NOT TO DRIVE TO MEXICO BUT NOTED THAT WHEN ASKED ABOUT ASSAULTS ON AMERICANS WE HAD TO BE TRUTHFUL IN INFORMING QUESTIONERS THAT SUCH ASSAULTS HAD INDEED TAKEN PLACE AND THAT THEY SHOULD BE CAREFUL IN DRIVING IN WESTERN MEXICO. ROSSELL

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SAID GOM AWARE OF DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED BY SOME MOTORISTS AND WAS TAKING ALL APPROPRIATE STEPS TO END SUCH CRIMINAL ACTIVITY (AS WELL AS ABUSES BY UNSCRUPULOUS OFFICIALS). ROSSELL SAID THAT IF WE BECAME AWARE OF ANY PROBLEMS REGARDING TOURISTS IN MEXICO WE SHOULD COMMUNICATE WITH HIM DIRECTLY AND HE WOULD SEEK TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS.

3. ROSSELL SAID THAT AS MINISTER OF TOURISM HE WAS DETERMINED TO BREAK THE TOURIST "BOTTLENECK" CAUSED BY TOO FEW FLIGHTS TO MEXICO. HE STATED HE WAS ANXIOUS TO RENEW NEGOTIATIONS WITH US ON AVIATION AGREEMENT AND FOR HIS PART WOULD URGE THAT GOM TAKE VERY LIBERAL POSITION WITH REGARD TO U.S. CARRIERS.
KISSINGER

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